

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 4, 5, 20, 21 and 49 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and add new Claim 51 and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of activating an application for displaying on a display screen information of a peripheral device on a communication link, comprising:

storage means for storing information of the peripheral device on the communication link in a resident memory;

obtaining means for obtaining status information or alert information of the peripheral device through the communication link when the application is activated;

first display control means for displaying on the display screen the information of the peripheral device on the communication link according to ~~the~~ information previously stored in the storage means before the obtaining means completes obtaining the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device ~~on~~ from the peripheral device via the communication link; and

second display control means for updating a content of the information displayed by the first display control means according to the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device obtained by the obtaining means in response to completion of a process for obtaining at least one of the status information and the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the communication link.

2. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the obtaining means obtains the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device from a storage device in the peripheral device.

3. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the peripheral device is one of a printer, a scanner, and a facsimile machine.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising changing means for updating the information of the peripheral device on the communication link stored in the resident memory, according to the information obtained by the obtaining means.

7. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second display control means displays a progress of obtaining the status information or the alert information by the obtaining means, on the display screen.

8. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the second display control means displays status information of a device for which the status information has been changed from a time when the application is first activated, in a predetermined display form.

9. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the obtaining means sequentially obtains status information of each of a plurality of devices on the communication link in an order based on a predetermined condition.

10. (Original) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 9, further comprising registration means for specifying the predetermined condition externally.

11. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising determination means for determining whether the information of the peripheral device on the communication link stored in the storage means is dynamic information, which is changed as time passes,

wherein the first display control means displays the information of the peripheral device on the communication link on the display screen according to information which is determined not to be dynamic information by the determination means.

12. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the second display control means updates the content of the information displayed by the first display control means according to dynamic information of the peripheral device on the communication link obtained by the obtaining means.

13. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein the second display control means changes a form of a symbol of the information of the peripheral device displayed by the first display control means according to the dynamic information of the peripheral device on the communication link obtained by the obtaining means.

14. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to a state of expendables for the peripheral device.

15. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to whether an error has occurred in the peripheral device.

16. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 13, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to whether the peripheral device is in use.

17. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for displaying on a display screen information of a peripheral device on a communication link when an application is activated, comprising the steps of:

a reading step of reading information of the peripheral device on the communication link from a resident memory;

an obtaining step of obtaining status information or alert information of the peripheral device through the communication link when the application is activated;

a first display control step of displaying on the display screen the information of the peripheral device on the communication link according to the information read from the resident memory before the obtaining step completes obtaining the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device ~~on~~ from the peripheral device via the communication link; and

a second display control step of updating a content of the information displayed in the first display control step, according to the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device obtained in the obtaining step in response to completion of a process for obtaining at least one of the status information and the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the communication link.

18. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 17, wherein the obtaining step obtains the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device from a storage device in the peripheral device.

19. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 17, wherein the peripheral device is one of a printer, a scanner, and a facsimile machine.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 17, further comprising a changing step for updating the information of the peripheral device on the communication link stored in the resident memory according to the information obtained in the obtaining step.

23. (Original) An information processing method according to Claim 17, wherein a progress of obtaining information in the obtaining step is displayed on the display screen in the second display control step.

24. (Original) An information processing method according to Claim 17, wherein status information of a device for which the status information has been changed from a time when the application is first activated is displayed in a predetermined display form in the second display control step.

25. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 17, wherein status information of each of a plurality of devices on the communication link is sequentially obtained in an order based on a predetermined condition in the obtaining step.

26. (Original) An information processing method according to Claim 25, further comprising a registration step of specifying the predetermined condition externally.

27. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 17, further comprising a determination step of determining whether the information of the peripheral device on the communication link stored in the resident memory is dynamic information, which is changed as time passes,

wherein the information of the peripheral device on the communication link is displayed on the display screen in the first display control step according to information which is determined not to be dynamic information in the determination step.

28. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 27, wherein the content of the information displayed by the first display control step is updated in the second display control step according to dynamic information of the peripheral device on the communication link obtained in the obtaining step.

29. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 28, wherein a form of a symbol of the information of the device displayed in the first

display control step is changed in the second display control step according to the dynamic information of the peripheral device on the communication link obtained in the obtaining step.

30. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 28, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to a state of expendables for the peripheral device.

31. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 28, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to whether an error has occurred in the peripheral device.

32. (Previously Presented) An information processing method according to Claim 28, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to whether the peripheral device is in use.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer readable program stored on a computer readable memory medium, the program comprising computer executable code for displaying on a display screen information of a peripheral device on a communication link when an application is activated, the program comprising the steps of:

a reading step of reading information of the peripheral device on the communication link from a resident memory;

an obtaining step of obtaining status information or alert information of the peripheral device through the communication link when the application is activated;

a first display control step of displaying on the display screen information of the peripheral device on the communication link according to the information read from the resident memory before the obtaining step completes obtaining the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device ~~on~~ from the peripheral device via the communication link; and

a second display control step of updating a content of the information displayed in the first display control step according to the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device obtained in the obtaining step in response to completion of a process for obtaining at least one of the status information and the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the communication link.

34. to 39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) A computer program according to Claim 33, wherein status information of a device for which the status information has been changed from a time when the application is first activated is displayed in a predetermined display form in the second display control step.

41. (Previously Presented) A computer program according to Claim 33, wherein status information of each of a plurality of devices on the communication link is sequentially obtained in an order based on a predetermined condition in the obtaining step.

42. (Original) A computer program according to Claim 41, further comprising a registration step of specifying the predetermined condition externally.

43. (Previously Presented) A computer program according to Claim 33, further comprising a determination step of determining whether the information of the peripheral device on the communication link stored in the resident memory is dynamic information, which is changed as time passes,
wherein the information of the peripheral device on the communication link is displayed on the display screen in the first display control step according to information which is determined not to be dynamic information in the determination step.

44. (Previously Presented) A computer program according to Claim 43, wherein the content of the information displayed by the first display control step is updated in the second display control step according to dynamic information of the peripheral device on the communication link obtained in the obtaining step.

45. (Previously Presented) A computer program according to Claim 44, wherein a form of a symbol of the information of the device displayed in the first display control step is changed in the second display control step according to the dynamic

information of the peripheral device on the communication link obtained in the obtaining step.

46. (Previously Presented) A computer program according to Claim 44, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to a state of expendables for the peripheral device.

47. (Previously Presented) A computer program according to Claim 44, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to whether an error has occurred in the peripheral device.

48. (Previously Presented) A computer program according to Claim 44, wherein the dynamic information includes information related to whether the peripheral device is in use.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus capable of activating an application for displaying on a display screen information of a peripheral device on a communication link, comprising:

a storage unit that stores information of the peripheral device on the communication link in a resident memory;

an obtaining unit that obtains status information or alert information of the peripheral device through the communication link when the application is activated;

a first display control unit that displays on the display screen information of the peripheral device on the communication link according to the information previously stored in the storage unit before the obtaining unit obtains the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device ~~on~~ from the peripheral device via the communication link; and

a second display control unit that updates a content of the information displayed by the first display control unit according to the status information or the alert information of the peripheral device obtained by the obtaining unit in response to completion of a process for obtaining at least one of the status information and the alert information of the peripheral device from the peripheral device via the communication link

51. (New) An information processing apparatus, comprising:

first booting means for booting a first display thread;

executing means for executing an obtaining thread, parallel to the first display thread, which controls an obtaining process for obtaining status information or alert information of a peripheral device;

second booting means for booting a second display thread;

controlling means for controlling the obtaining thread to enter a wait state until the second display thread quits; and

display controlling means for resuming the second display thread in response to completion of the obtaining process by the obtaining thread and for controlling

the second display thread, wherein the second display thread controls a displaying process of at least one of the status information and the alert information obtained by the obtaining process controlled by the obtaining thread.